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# Iran Won't Forgo Legal Right to Enrichment: Pezeshkian

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## Iran Navy, Air Defense thwart US warship incursion near territorial waters

TEHRAN – Iranian forces repelled the U.S. destroy-er DDG Fitzgerald from approaching Iran's monitored waters in the Oman Sea early Wednesday.

At 10:00 AM, the Prophet Muhammad Third Na-val District deployed a helicopter, warning the ves-sel away as it neared sensitive boundaries.

The intrusive U.S. warship threatened to target the Iranian helicopter, demanding its departure. The Iranian pilot persisted, reiterating warnings to vacate Iran's maritime zone.

Faced with Iran's resolve and air defense back-ing, the U.S. warship complied, altering course southward away from Iran's sovereign waters.

This underscores Tehran's resolve in upholding its strategic red lines against U.S. encroachment—clearly demonstrated during Iran's calibrated act of self-defense targeting the Al-Udeid Air Base in June, where a precision strike damaged a vital radar system and temporarily disrupted American surveillance capabilities.

"The Islamic Republic delivered a hard slap to America's face," declared the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, warn-ing that Iran's access to key U.S. installations in the region "can be repeated."

## 'We must prepare for any situation.' New IRGC Aerospace chief vows unbroken readiness

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Majid Mousavi, the newly appointed Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force, declared Iran's armed forces "must prepare our-selves for any situation" in his inaugural televised interview.

The statement, delivered against the backdrop of heightened regional tensions, underscores Tehran's posture of comprehensive readiness fol-lowing the U.S.-Israeli 12-day aggression against Iran in June that caused the martyrdom of over 1062 Iranians. ► Page 2

## Treaty-breakers in the position of claimants: Europe's blatant misstep in invoking the snapback mechanism

By Abbas-Ali Kadhodaei  
Professor of Law at Tehran University

Within the systematic framework of interna-tional law, general legal principles can be regarded as the very foundations of the global order, playing an irreplaceable role in safeguarding the credibility and integrity of international law. These principles have emerged from the continuous practice and tacit agreements of states and other international actors, and through this gradual process, they have paved the way for the development of further rules in international law.

Among these principles, a foundational rule such as ex injuria jus non oritur "the denial of legitimacy to unlawful acts" holds a special and distinguished position. According to this rule, no right or privilege can arise from an illegal act, nor can it bestow legitimacy upon such an act, for recognizing rights stemming from a breach of obligation is tantamount to endorsing and le-gitimizing the very act of wrongdoing. Thus, the purpose of this rule is to protect the legal sys-tem from falling into contradiction and to pre-vent the ascendancy of realities born of power or force over legal norms. This principle is a tan-gible reflection of the international community's efforts to ensure the rule of law and to preserve the integrity of the legal system. ► Page 3

## Trump has turned US into a rogue and pariah state

By Bahram Moradi

TEHRAN – The United States under the leadership of Donald Trump is almost at odds with all countries except Israel. The Trump administration is also defying established international institutions, such as UNESCO and the International Criminal Court.

Trump's repeated and reckless remarks that Canada should be the 51st state of the United States and that his country may take over Greenland by force if necessary, his proposal to own the Gaza Strip, his reversal of any decision or step to rein in on the climate change, and his illusion that all countries are taking advantage of the U.S have made Trum to look outlandish.

His tactless withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has now turned into a global security headache as his administration and Israel launched miliary strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities in June.

## Barrack, the Don Quixote of US imperialism

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Colonialism was not merely a political and economic hegemony exercised by Western powers over large parts of the world. It was also a profound cultural and ideological plot intended to distort the history of colonized peoples, to fool them, and to impose deviant models of knowledge and values on them.

This is what US envoy Thomas Barrack is doing by exploiting the collective Lebanese consciousness, sometimes by calling on them to emulate the "amazing" example of the new Syrian interim president Ahmed al-Sharaa (the former HTS leader known as Abu Mohammad al-Julani), and other times by his open lie that Hezbollah welcomed the Israeli occupation forces by scattering flowers in the 1970s.

He made such false claims in an interview with Al-Jadeed TV. When the interviewer corrected him, he added that Hezbollah emerged as a result of the events of the 1970s, which are well-known to everyone: The daily Israeli attacks on the southerners at the time and the blatant American interference in Lebanese affairs.

## Aid groups blame Israel's siege of Gaza for 'mass starvation'

More than 100 aid agencies and rights groups, including Save the Children and Doctors Without Borders, warned that "mass starvation" was spreading across Gaza, adding to calls for Israel to lift restrictions on humanitarian aid to the besieged enclave, the New York Times reported.

The joint statement is the latest attempt to draw attention to a growing hunger crisis in Gaza. It was released after the European Union and at least 28 governments, including Israeli allies like Britain, France and Canada, on Monday condemned the "drip feeding of aid" and said that civilian suffering had "reached new depths."

Doctors Without Borders in Gaza has reported a "sharp and unprecedented rise in acute malnutrition." Adults frequently collapse from hunger, the aid groups said in their statement, adding that stockpiles of food and other supplies warehoused outside the territory were being prevented from reaching people in need.

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ICAR director tells Tehran Times.

**World Heritage listing validates Iran's commitment to preserving Paleolithic past**

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**Exclusive**



© Reuters  
Palestinian men, women and children wait to receive food from a charity kitchen in Gaza City, on Wednesday, 23 July, 2025.

## Western lip service won't stop Israeli genocide in Gaza

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — Western powers have launched a calculated charm offensive aimed at Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, as global outrage intensifies over Israel's ongoing military assault and enforced starvation of the besieged enclave.

Mass starvation is spreading rapidly throughout Gaza under Israel's suffocating blockade. The Israeli military continues to kill Palestinian civilians, including those desperately seeking humanitarian food aid. Since October 2023, Israel has killed more than 59,000 Palestinians in its war on Gaza. ► Page 5

## TEHRAN PAPERS

*In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.*

## Roadmap for negotiations with Europe

On the eve of the start of Iran's negotiations with the European side in Istanbul, Khorasan wrote: The upcoming meeting between Iran and three European countries in Istanbul is more than a routine diplomatic event. What distinguishes this round of negotiations from previous ones is Europe's unprecedented convergence with the United States and Israel after the recent 12-day war. Europe is no longer a mediator, nor a balanced and reliable partner, but rather the third side of a triangle of pressure along with Washington and Tel Aviv. Europe currently has no new tools to apply more pressure on Iran. What they are talking about under the name of the snapback mechanism is more of a psychological threat to create fear and gain concessions than a real and implementable threat. In these circumstances, Iran should not show any sign of retreat or flexibility on technical nuclear issues without receiving specific concessions. A deal in which Iran is only asked to make technical concessions, without having any practical and real achievements for the people, is practically playing on the opponent's ground.

## Etemad: Resolving the country's problems requires dialogue with all political factions

In a report published on Wednesday, Etemad quoted President Masoud Pezeshkian who said in a meeting on Tuesday that resolving the problems the country is facing entails dialogue with those opposition groups who are at odds with the Islamic Republic. The president said the government is ready to engage constructively with all political currents, stating: "Today, we are even prepared to hold dialogue with the opposition on the basis of fairness and justice, because solving the country's problems requires dialogue—not confrontation." In a meeting with members of the Iranian Reform Front, Pezeshkian noted: "The path of reforms is a complex one. Some statements may seem easy and simple in words, but implementing them in practice is far more difficult. Reform is a time-consuming process, and some changes might take up to a decade." The president described the government's direction as a continuous effort to achieve its set goals, clarifying: "We are on a path defined by specific objectives and based on public trust, and we are striving to fulfill them." Pezeshkian expressed gratitude for the Iranian nation's wise behavior during critical moments, adding: "People's performance during the 12-day war (referring to Israel's war on Iran from June 13-June 24) was based on engagement, not confrontation—and this social capital doubles the government's responsibility to pursue public demands."

## 'Iranians not surrendering': Robert Malley says Israeli aggression 'fueled Iranian nationalism'

TEHRAN – Robert Malley, the former U.S. official who served as lead negotiator for the 2015 nuclear accord, has delivered a scathing critique of Washington's confrontational Iran policy, calling military action a strategic blunder that backfired catastrophically.

Malley, who served as the U.S. Special Envoy for Iran for over two years under the Biden administration, stated in a Tuesday MSNBC interview that the Israeli regime's strikes on Iranian territory had paradoxically bolstered Iranian nationalism—while ultimately failing to achieve their intended goals.

"The Iranians are not surrendering," Malley stated unequivocally, underscoring Tehran's resilience in the face of economic sanctions and military strikes.

Malley described the June U.S.-Israeli strikes on nuclear facilities as counterproductive, noting they created "greater aspiration [for advancing nuclear program] and less visibility" into Iran's nuclear activities.

His assessment mirrors the recent declaration of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, that "Iranians are not people who surrender to threats," underscoring national unity against external aggression.

The former envoy said "destroying" known nuclear sites ignored Iran's capacity to disperse and conceal its program, leaving the West "in a situation where we know less about what they're doing."

The diplomat reserved sharp criticism for

## Kayhan: Power, the only guarantor of security

Kayhan devoted its editorial to Iran's bargaining chip against the enemy and wrote: We are now at war, and only its form has changed after the ceasefire. We did not start this war. This war was imposed on dear Iran, and in the middle of the negotiations. This means that they were not looking for negotiations; they were looking to turn Iran into another Syria or Libya, but they failed.

There are other signs besides these statements that show that their view of negotiations is completely different from ours. Before the war, when news broke out that in the five rounds of indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States, the American side was not serious at all and that the statements made during the meetings were different from the positions taken after the meetings, it meant that they were not looking for negotiations, but were planning to attack our country. Their definite goal was to divide Iran. They pursued this goal in two ways: 1- military aggression, 2- negotiations! They failed in the military aggression. Now they are pursuing the same goal through negotiations.

## Jam-e-Jam: Goals of Iran-troika negotiations

Two basic goals were pursued in the nuclear negotiations with the West: lifting sanctions and preventing war. After the actions of the Zionist regime and the United States, it was practically shown that the logic of dialogue and diplomacy has no place in resolving the disputes between Iran and the United States. Of course, before the war, negotiations with the Europeans to resolve the nuclear issue were proceeding well, but with the aggressive actions of the Zionist regime and the United States, there is no longer much hope for rational behavior in Europe. The snapback mechanism has two faces: a legal and a political one. Europe has shown that it does not care about the legal approach and is seeking psychological warfare and putting pressure on Iran. Iran has numerous deterrent tools, such as withdrawing from the NPT, increasing the percentage of enriched uranium, and control and dominance over the Strait of Hormuz. Therefore, if the Europeans insist on their unprincipled moves, they must be prepared to face a serious challenge regarding cheap energy supply. Europe, that its economy has stagnated under the burden of the proxy war with Russia and Trump's tariffs, must pay the price for its Zionist escalation with Iran.



Donald Trump's erratic policies, revealing how the former president's "mood shifts constantly" between diplomacy and military escalation.

Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal and subsequent "maximum pressure" campaign failed spectacularly, Malley argued, as Iran responded by massively expanding uranium enrichment.

"That theory of the case—[that maximum pressure would compel Iran to surrender]—we really need to put to rest," Malley asserted, pointing out that Tehran's nuclear capabilities expanded significantly after sanctions were reinstated.

Malley characterized the Israeli regime's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's strategy as self-defeating, observing that Israel's portrayal of Iran as an "existential threat" created a contradiction: "On the one hand, they say that Iran is a fanatical, irrational regime, which could use a nuclear weapon against Israel if it had one."

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## 'We must prepare for any situation:' New IRGC Aerospace chief vows unbroken readiness

From page 1 ▶ "The most important task is the correct understanding of our responsibility in this arena," Mousavi emphasized in the interview that aired Tuesday night, describing perpetual preparedness as a sacred duty inherited from martyred commanders.

His appointment by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, came within hours of the June 13 Israeli strikes that martyred his brothers-in-arms in the Aerospace Force, Generals Amir-Ali Hajizadeh and Mahmood Bagheri, alongside IRGC Chief General Hossein Salami and Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Mohammad Bagheri.

Mousavi, Hajizadeh's longtime deputy and a key architect of Iran's missile program, now leads the force at a pivotal moment.

Invoking the spiritual mantle of Iran's missile pioneers, Mousavi honored martyred General Hassan Tehrani-Moghaddam – father of Iran's missile program – stating, "We are the 'missile children' who proudly continue his path."

He attributed Iran's strategic readiness to the "culture of courage and perseverance left by Generals Hajizadeh and [Mahmood] Bagheri," whose sacrifices during the 12-Day War galvanized the nation.

"Today, our country stands firm by relying on the path of magnanimous martyrs. Those who remain carry a great mission," he asserted.

In a subsequent segment of the in-



IRGC Aerospace Commander Brigadier General Majid Mousavi (R) during an interview aired on July 22, 2025.

terview, General Mousavi described Iran's resilience as "an ever-repeating Ashura," warning the struggle could "recur at any moment."

He praised the millions who flooded Tehran's streets during the martyrs' funerals, calling the public "the backbone of this path."

Mousavi concluded with a vow to uphold Iran's deterrence doctrine: "Until blood flows in our veins, we will continue guarding the Islamic Revolution." He linked operational readiness to spiritual destiny, urging personnel to emulate martyrs who "lived and fought" for the ultimate goal: delivering "this flag to its true owner, Imam Mahdi (AJ)."

## True Promise III: A manifestation of preparedness

Mousavi's call for preparedness reflects critical lessons from Operation True Promise III, Iran's unprecedented 22-wave retaliation.

This meticulously planned oper-

ation showcased Iran's capacity for complex, sustained strikes.

Despite the Israeli regime's sweeping and unprecedented military censorship aimed at concealing the devastating impact, numerous military analysts affirmed the operation delivered crippling blows, severely degrading the regime's offensive capabilities.

U.S. President Donald Trump publicly acknowledged the effectiveness, stating, "Israel got hit really hard."

Iranian drones and advanced missiles, including hypersonic Fattah and multi-warhead Kheibar, consistently penetrated Israeli air defenses. Key targets included:

– Air bases: Nevatim and Ovda air bases were reportedly rendered inoperable for over 72 hours.

– Military and intelligence hubs: Tel Nof, Ministry of War facilities, and the Kirya complex (Israel's "Pentagon") in Tel Aviv suffered heavy

## 'Genocidal brutality', Iran condemns Israeli systematic starvation of civilians in Gaza

the crisis to "horrific crimes" committed by Israel. It accused the Israeli regime of using starvation as a weapon of war while continuing to carry out large-scale attacks on civilian areas and aid distribution centers.

"The ongoing siege, bombardment of displacement shelters, and targeting of food and water distribution points — which have become death traps for starving civilians — are undeniable proof of the Israeli apartheid regime's brutality and the culpability of its international backers," the statement read.

Citing recent reports, the ministry said more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed while waiting in food lines and another 600 have died from hunger — figures it described as "shocking evidence" of war crimes and deliberate efforts to exterminate the population.

The statement follows growing international concern about conditions in Gaza. On Tuesday alone, at least 15 Palestinians — including four children — reportedly died of starvation, while Israeli airstrikes killed another 81. United Nations agencies have warned of catastrophic levels of malnutrition, with UNICEF calling the situation a "horror show" marked by destruction and death on an unprecedented scale.

Referring to UN assessments, the Iranian ministry noted that 90% of Gaza has become uninhabitable, and more than 1.2 million people now face life-threatening food insecurity.

The Foreign Ministry also criticized the paralysis of the UN Security Council, blaming persistent U.S. obstruction for blocking international efforts to end the war.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Tehran will defend its rights under UN Charter and non-proliferation regime: FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's determination to safeguard its national interests and sovereign rights within the framework of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

He made the remarks in a phone conversation with his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani on Tuesday.

During the call, Araghchi strongly condemned the Israeli-American military aggression against Iran, especially as it occurred amid ongoing diplomatic processes. He urged all governments to denounce such bla-

tant violations of international norms. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, for his part, underlined the importance of diplomacy and stressed that the use of force must be avoided in resolving international disputes.

On June 13, Israel launched a surprise and unprovoked military assault on Iran, assassinating several senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. More than a week later, the United States escalated the conflict by targeting three Iranian nuclear facilities—an act Tehran has condemned as a grave breach of the UN Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).



Iran and Russia wrapped up a joint naval search and rescue drill in the Caspian Sea with a maritime parade of the participating vessels on July 23, 2025.

## Pezeshkian discusses role of religious institutions with Ayatollah Araf

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met with Head of the Islamic Seminaries Ayatollah Alireza Araf, during his unofficial visit to the holy city of Qom on Wednesday evening.

The two discussed a range of issues, including the current state of the Islamic seminaries, the role of religious scholars in shaping social developments, and the need for stronger synergy between religious institutions and the political establishment.

Cultural matters and the government's responsibilities toward addressing Qom's infrastructural shortcomings were also highlighted during the meeting.

Ayatollah Araf, who is currently a member of the Guardian Council and also a member of the Assembly of Experts, emphasized the historical role of the seminaries in promoting ethical and spiritual values in Iranian society, calling on the administration to support religious institutions as essential pillars of national culture.

The meeting was part of Pezeshkian's broader consultations aimed at building consensus on national priorities through dialogue with key figures.

## Veteran politician Ahmad Tavakoli passes away at 74

TEHRAN – Ahmad Tavakoli, a member of the Expediency Discernment Council and longtime member of Iran's political establishment, has passed away at the age of 74.

Tavakoli had been suffering from Parkinson's disease for several years and was hospitalized in recent days after suffering a severe heart attack. He died on Tuesday, July 23, 2025.

Born in 1951 in the city of Behshahr, Tavakoli played a significant role in the country's political developments over the past four decades.

He first entered the Iranian Parliament as a representative of Behshahr, and later served three consecutive terms representing Tehran, Rey, Shemiranat, and Eslamshahr.

During his parliamentary tenure, Tavakoli also served as head of the Parliamentary Research Center, leading the body's legislative studies and policy assessments from the beginning of the seventh parliament until partway through the ninth.

# Iran won't forgo legal right to enrichment: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian says uranium enrichment will continue on Iranian soil in full compliance with international law, reaffirming Tehran's principled opposition to nuclear weapons on religious, strategic, and humanitarian grounds.

In an interview with Al Jazeera aired on Wednesday, Pezeshkian said: "This is a fundamental and permanent position. Uranium enrichment will proceed on Iranian territory in line with international regulations."

He underscored that Iran's stance is not a response to Western pressure but is grounded in its own values and legal commitments.

"We do not accept threats or ultimatums. Donald Trump says Iran must not have a nuclear weapon, and we agree—but not because of his words. We act based on the fatwa of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, which prohibits such weapons."

He dismissed as "a delusion" any claims that Iran's nuclear program has been dismantled, adding that the true power of the program lies in the knowledge and expertise of Iranian scientists, not physical infrastructure.

President Pezeshkian's remarks were echoed by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who told Fox News on Monday that Iran will not give up its nuclear program—especially uranium enrichment—even after recent military attacks by the United States and Israel.

"It is clear Iran will not give up enrichment because it is an achieve-



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian in an interview with Al Jazeera aired on July 23, 2025.

ment of our own scientists and a source of national pride," Araghchi said.

When asked if any enriched uranium was preserved following U.S. strikes, Araghchi said he had "no detailed information," but noted that the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran was "trying to evaluate what has exactly happened to our nuclear material, to our enriched material."

On June 13, Israel launched a surprise and unprovoked military assault on Iran, assassinating several senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. More than a week later, the United States escalated the conflict by targeting three Iranian nuclear facilities—an act Tehran has censured as a grave breach of the UN Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In response, Iran's Armed Forces launched hundreds of ballistic missiles and drones against strategic Israeli positions, as well as targeting

the U.S. Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar—the largest American base in West Asia.

In his interview with Al Jazeera, Pezeshkian clarified that Iran had no quarrel with Qatar as a nation, explaining: "We did not attack the country of Qatar—we hit an American base that bombed Iranian territory. Qatar is our sister nation. I even spoke directly with the Emir of Qatar to explain our position. Our intentions toward Qatar are entirely positive and brotherly."

On June 24, after nearly two weeks of sustained retaliatory operations, Iran succeeded in halting the coordinated Israeli-American military assault.

Prior to the June 13 attacks, Iran and the United States had held five rounds of indirect negotiations regarding Tehran's peaceful nuclear program. These talks, mediated by Oman, were set to continue in Muscat on June 15—but the planned sixth round was canceled following

the Israeli assault.

The Iranian side has expressed concern that the war was deliberately timed to derail diplomatic progress.

Pezeshkian accused the Israeli regime of attempting to dismantle the Islamic Republic through sabotage, targeted assassinations, and chaos, but said these efforts had backfired:

"There's no doubt that infiltration occurred, but the decisive factor was U.S. technology and how it was exploited. Israel tried to eliminate Iran through chaos, but it was defeated."

He emphasized that Iran does not seek conflict but cannot afford to rely on the assumption that a ceasefire will hold:

"We will defend ourselves with full strength. Israel conceals its losses from our missile strikes, but its call for a ceasefire speaks volumes."

The president also confirmed that a recent attempt on his life was part of Israel's broader assassination campaign targeting Iran's leadership:

"The attack on me is a continuation of Israel's strategy of targeting political figures, following its campaign against military commanders."

Despite accusations by certain Western politicians and media outlets, Iranian officials have consistently reiterated that the Islamic Republic has no intention of developing nuclear weapons.

In Israel's unprovoked and illegal war on Iran that lasted for 12 days, at least 1,060 Iranians, including women and children, were killed.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

## UNHCR chief discuss undocumented Afghans repatriation in Tehran meeting with Araghchi

valid legal documentation, urging the international community to assume its responsibilities and extend necessary support for this effort.

Araghchi made the remarks during a Tuesday meeting in Tehran with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, where both sides reviewed recent developments and cooperation on Afghan refugee issues.

Emphasizing Iran's decades-long humanitarian role in hosting Afghan refugees, the top diplomat highlighted the government's dedication to ensuring a voluntary and dignified return process for those residing irregularly in Iran.

Araghchi further stressed the importance of enhanced collaboration between Afghanistan and the UN to accelerate repatriation efforts and to help create sustainable employment and living conditions for returning Afghans in their homeland.

In response, Grandi expressed appreciation for Iran's longstanding partnership with UNHCR and its extensive support for Afghan refugees. He also shared insights from his recent visit to Kabul, where he held discussions with officials from the Afghan interim government about refugee matters and voluntary returns.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

## IAEA reports validate Iran's nuclear transparency, Tehran tells UN

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, has reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, stating that all International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports to date confirm the country's full compliance with its obligations and show no indication of deviation.

Gharibabadi made the remarks during a meeting on Tuesday in New York with UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo.

The two discussed last month's Israeli-U.S. military strikes on Iranian territory, as well as the status of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The Iranian diplomat cited the IAEA's regular assessments as evidence of Tehran's transparent and peaceful nuclear conduct.

"Not a single word in these reports suggests any diversion in Iran's nuclear program," he stressed.

Rejecting decades-long Israeli claims that Iran is seeking nuclear weapons, Gharibabadi dismissed such accusations as politically motivated and unfounded. "The Islamic Republic, guided by religious principles and binding fatwas, has never pursued weapons of mass destruction," he said, adding that such claims come from a regime that is not a party to any international disarmament treaty and possesses a full arsenal of such weapons.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) meets with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi in Tehran, on July 22, 2025.

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has reiterated the country's firm commitment to repatriating Afghan refugees living without

## Treaty-breakers in the position of claimants: Europe's blatant misstep in invoking the snapback mechanism

From Page 1 ▶ Deviation from this principle would equate to defining "right" through "might," a notion fundamentally at odds with the essence of international legal order, threatening its foundational legitimacy. As a widely accepted general principle, solidified through the gradual, unwritten consensus of international actors, it provides a framework for the development and reinforcement of other legal rules, particularly in the relatively under-codified domain of international law, where such principles act as architects of legal order.

Nevertheless, current realities have at times made the interpretation and application of this principle fraught with difficulties. In the arena of practical politics and power-driven interests, states have often been led to disregard this principle. In many cases, a state that invokes this principle in rhetoric has, in practice, sought to legitimize the gains of its own unlawful acts through justification or silence, thereby denying its own wrongdoing.

The principle of *ex injuria jus non oritur* "the denial of legitimacy to unlawful acts" must stand as a firm bulwark against this danger, preventing realities born of the violation of

rules from being entrenched under the cloak of legitimacy and international acceptance. A contemporary example of the practical challenge to this principle can be seen in the conduct of the three European states party to the JCPOA and their invocation of the so-called "snapback mechanism"—a situation that vividly illustrates the tension between theory and practice in international law and challenges how field realities impact legal principles.

Within the framework of the JCPOA and UN Security Council Resolution 2231, explicit obligations were placed upon European countries. Paragraph 26 of the agreement explicitly stipulated that the reimposition of lifted sanctions or the imposition of new sanctions by any party would constitute a fundamental breach—a breach that would entitle Iran to suspend its own commitments and legitimize any proportionate Iranian response to such measures. In addition, paragraph 28 required member states to refrain from any action or inaction that would undermine the object and purpose of the agreement. Furthermore, paragraph 29 went even further, obligating member states to actively facilitate the normal course of their economic relations with Iran and to avoid any

policy that would impede such relations—a commitment that explicitly called for a proactive, supportive role by the parties to the agreement.

In practice, however, with the withdrawal of the United States and the reimposition of its sanctions, the obligations set forth in paragraphs 26, 28, and 29 became a real test for Europe—a test in which the three European countries, despite the clear legal obligations under the JCPOA and Resolution 2231, failed. The European countries' refusal to take effective compensatory measures amounted to a violation of both their positive and negative obligations toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, thereby undermining any claim of adherence to the agreement.

Based on the established principle of *ex injuria jus non oritur* "the denial of legitimacy to unlawful acts," it is clear that no right can arise from a breach of obligation. A state that has itself violated the agreement cannot enjoy the rights arising from that very agreement, nor can it possess the legal legitimacy necessary to invoke it.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

## Russian club Grozny sign two Gol Gohar players

TEHRAN – Following Ousmane Ndong, another central defender from the Iranian club Gol Gohar Sirjan, Mehdi Zare, has signed a contract with the Grozny club.

In the past season, the player appeared in 23 matches in the Iranian Professional League.

Zare has penned a four-year deal with Akmat.

Akhmat Grozny, formerly Terek Grozny, is a Russian professional football club based in Grozny that plays in the Russian Premier League.

## Esteghlal winger Mohammadi set to join Tractor

TEHRAN — Esteghlal football team's winger Mehrdad Mohammadi is expected to join Tractor football club.

Mohammadi joined Esteghlal from Al Sailiya in July 2023 on a two-year contract.

The 32-year-old player appeared for Tractor in a friendly match against Turkish side Genclerbirliđi, which Esteghlal won 2-0.

Esteghlal have not renewed Mohammadi's contract, paving the way for his move to Tractor.

## Iran into 2025 FIBA U16 Asia Cup

TEHRAN – Iran secured their place in the 2025 FIBA U16 Asia Cup to be held in Mongolia.

The young Persians won a bronze medal in the first edition of the competition in Johor Bahru, Malaysia in 2009.

Iran defeated Jordan 96-88 on Tuesday in the FIBA U16 Asia Cup WABA Qualifiers and will play Lebanon on Thursday in the final match.

Bardia Khosravi, who led Iran with 19 points, was named the Most Valuable Player.

Iran had previously defeated Syria 86-81 in the qualification.

The WABA U16 Boys Championship takes place from July 20 to 25 in Amman, Jordan.

## Duckens Nazon on Esteghlal's radar

TEHRAN — Esteghlal football team have reportedly expressed interest in signing Haitian forward Duckens Moise Nazon.

The 31-year-old Nazon currently plays for Süper Lig club Kayserispor.

Last season, he scored eight goals in 33 matches for the Turkish club.

Nazon has been a member of the Haiti national football team since 2014.

He has scored 40 goals in 72 appearances for Haiti.

## Iran beat Hong Kong in 2025 Asian Women's Youth Handball

TEHRAN – Iran registered their second victory at the 2025 Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship, beating Hong Kong 32-15 in 5–8th place semifinals on Wednesday.

Iran had previously lost to Japan and South Korea and defeated India in the competition.

Iran will face Chinese Taipei on Thursday.

The Republic of Korea have won eight of the 10 editions of the competition, all between 2005 and 2019. The last two winners have been Iran, in 2022, when neither Japan, nor Korea took part, and Japan in 2023.

The preliminary round of the 11th AHF Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship was held on 18, 19 and 21 July, with the semi-finals scheduled on 23 July.

The big final and the bronze medal match are due to take place on 26 July.

The 2025 Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship will be the 11th edition of the championship held from 18 to 26 July 2025 in Jingtangshan, China under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation. It was the first time in history that championship was organized by the Chinese Handball Association. It also will act as the qualification tournament for the 2026 Women's Youth World Handball Championship.

## 20 Iranian athletes to vie in Asian Junior, Cadet Taekwondo

TEHRAN – Over 1,300 participants from 44 countries will vie in Kuching, Malaysia for the 2025 Asian Junior, Cadet and Para Taekwondo Championships.

The prestigious event, scheduled from July 25 to August 1, will be held at Stadium Perpaduan in Petra Jaya.

Iran has sent 10 female and 10 male athletes to the championships.

This marks a significant occasion for Malaysia, as it will be the first time in 33 years that the country will have the privilege of hosting such a distinguished assembly.

In conjunction with the championships, the Asian Taekwondo Union (ATU) will also conduct its 2025 Council Meeting and Annual General Assembly on July 24, where leaders from all 44 participating countries will convene to elect a new president and committee members.

## Iran to face Spain in 2025 FIVB U19 World opener

TEHRAN – Iran will start the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship on Thursday with a match with Spain.

The young Persians will also play Poland (July 25), Tunisia (July 26), Egypt (July 28), and Italy (July 29) in Pool C.

Uzbekistan will host the Championship from 24 July to 3 August in Tashkent, with preparations supported by the FIVB Volleyball Empowerment program through 12 months of coaching support, event equipment, and three knowledge transfer programs.

The 2025 edition will be the first time Uzbekistan hosts a Volleyball World Championship, highlighting its growing involvement in international volleyball. The country placed second in the Asian Challenge Cup in both 2023 and 2024.

The 24 participating teams will compete in four round-robin pools, with the top four teams from each group advancing to the knockout stage. All teams will play through to the end of the tournament, with final rankings determined across three additional rounds to decide positions from first to 24th.

Tashkent is emerging as a destination for international sport in Central Asia. With its blend of Silk Road heritage and modern facilities, the city is set to provide a vibrant stage for the world's top Boys' U19 squads.

The World Championship marks an important moment for Uzbekistan volleyball. The Empowerment program provides the foundation for the country's efforts to develop talent and strengthen its presence in international competition.

## Persepolis eye Esteghlal target Mohanad Ali

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team have shown interest in signing Iraqi international forward Mohanad Ali.

The 25-year-old forward had been previously linked with Persepolis' archival Esteghlal.

Ali is a member of Iraq national football team since 2017 and scored 21 goals in 58 appearances for Lions of Mesopotamia.

Additionally, Emirati club Al Wasl have also shown interest in acquiring the player.

## ICCIMA calls for reshaping economic governance, empowering private sector in post-war recovery

TEHRAN – Following the recent 12-day conflict, Iranian economists and business leaders are calling for a fundamental restructuring of the country's economic governance, emphasizing the need to boost the private sector's share in the economy and transition from a state-dominated model to a more dynamic, resilient system.

At a forum on key post-war economic priorities hosted by the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Research Center and the Federation of Business Management and Consultants, Isa Mansouri, head of the chamber's research center, said Iran faces three strategic pathways in the aftermath of the conflict: a Japan-style reconstruction, prolonged resistance similar to Cuba's, or what he called "active resistance"—drawing parallels with the Netherlands in the 16th century and China in the 1950s.

"The most likely scenario is active resistance. But to move forward, we must rely on two key tools: structural reform and economic resilience," Mansouri said.

He stressed that past approaches have focused too heavily on resilience, while ignoring deep-rooted structural risks within the Iranian economy.

Mansouri noted that the country's economic sentiment index (Shamekh) recently fell to 37—well below the baseline of 50—underscoring persistent uncertainty.

He warned that short-term policy packages are insufficient and that long-term structural changes are essential.

Drawing from the lessons of the 2007 and 2011 European crises, Mansouri argued that



support should target the private sector rather than enforcing austerity measures. "In global recessions, the collapse of the private sector has always cascaded into banking and government sectors. The U.S. outperformed Europe in recovery precisely because it focused on relieving private sector pressure."

He outlined the current composition of Iran's economic ecosystem: the government controls roughly 25 percent, public quasi-governmental institutions hold 30 to 35 percent, and the private sector operates with just 10 to 15 percent.

"With such an imbalanced ecosystem, the current outcomes are inevitable," Mansouri said. "Without restructuring this model, repeated resilience policies will only deepen the systemic dysfunction."

Concluding, Mansouri said Iran's core economic problem lies in its outdated structure, not in its resilience strategies. "We must reconfigure the current economic ecosystem. Strengthening the private sector and reducing rent-seeking power centers is essential—and that requires deep legal and institutional reforms. Without that, private sector participation will not increase."

## Nearly 1.6m TV sets manufactured in a year



TEHRAN— In the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20), 1.591 million TV sets were manufactured in the country, Tasnim news agency reported.

As reported, the figure shows 17.4 percent drop from 1.927 million TV sets manufactured in the year 1402.

As stated by the secretary general of Iran's National Home Appliance Manufacturers Association, the association is drafting a strategic export plan as its top priority for the year, aiming to lift the industry out of prolonged stagnation.

## Daily diesel consumption cut by 5m liters amid anti-smuggling efforts

TEHRAN – Iran has reduced its daily diesel consumption by an average of five million liters in 2025 (Iranian year 1404), compared to the previous year, driven by tighter consumption management and enhanced fuel smuggling controls, a senior oil official said.

Mohammad Sadegh Azimifar, head of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), announced the figures on Tuesday during a meeting of the national task force on fuel smuggling prevention.

According to Azimifar, average daily gas oil consumption outside the power generation sector dropped to about 81 million liters from the beginning of the year through July 21, down from 86 million liters during the same period last year.

He said that the reduction, combined with



increased refinery output, has led to strong diesel reserves across the country.

"Our current diesel storage levels are in good shape. For power plants in particular, reserves are now 72 percent higher than this time last year," Azimifar noted.

# Isfahan refinery begins using seawater, secures 700,000 cubic meters monthly

TEHRAN – Isfahan Oil Refining Company has launched the pilot operation of the first phase of a major seawater transfer project, aiming to supply around 700,000 cubic meters of water each month to the refinery, its head announced.

Gholamreza Bagheri-Dizaj told Shana that the project is among the refinery's most strategic initiatives, launched to ensure a stable water supply for Isfahan's key industries amid worsening drought conditions.

The plan involves transferring seawater from the Gulf of Oman to central Iran through an extensive pipeline network.

"Given Isfahan's geographic vulnerability and frequent droughts, securing industrial water has long been a priority. With the formation of a dedicated water transfer company and investment by major regional industries, tapping sustainable sources like the Oman Sea has become possible," he said.

The project is being implemented in two phases. The first phase, now in trial operation,



delivers water through a 339-kilometer pipeline branching from the main VASCO line.

The pipeline splits into two routes—240 kilometers to the north and 219 kilometers to the south. The northern route feeds the Isfahan refinery.

Bagheri-Dizaj said Isfahan Refinery is the first industrial facility in the province to utilize seawater, marking a critical step in reducing reliance on increasingly scarce freshwater resources.

## Iran approves Maku free zone master plan, boosting China-Europe rail link

TEHRAN – Iran has approved the long-awaited master plan for the Maku Free Trade Zone after 12 years, a move officials say could unlock economic potential and advance the country's east-to-west rail ambitions connecting China to Europe.

Hossein Ghorbani, head of the Maku Free Zone, told IRNA on Tuesday that the plan was approved during a meeting with President Masoud Pezeshkian earlier this week.

"The approval paves the way for major developments, such as province-wide circulation of vehicles with free-zone license plates and the completion of the east-west rail corridor," he said.

Ghorbani noted that all free trade zones located outside Iran's customs territory are required to have a master plan and be fully enclosed—conditions that had yet to be implemented in Maku until now.

The newly approved plan includes tax exemptions for industrial and economic projects, as well as permission for free-zone registered vehicles to operate across West Azarbaijan province. It also revives long-standing calls to allow car imports to the region.

"Maku is the largest free zone in the country, and West Azarbaijan is the longest province. Importing modern foreign vehicles would not only boost the region's appeal but also significantly reduce road fatalities," Ghorbani said, adding that infrastructure upgrades are also underway across the province.

According to Ghorbani, 70 percent of fatal traffic accidents occur in just 15 provinces, including West Azarbaijan. The master plan's approval allows the region to begin modernizing its public transportation fleet and import standard vehicles to improve road safety.

He also emphasized that residents should know all types of vehicles can now enter Maku Free Zone under temporary import regulations for up to two years, with the possibility of renewal for up to ten years.

**China-Europe corridor via Maku gains traction**

Ghorbani said global trade is increasingly shaped by transport corridors, and the east-west rail route—from China through Iran to Europe—holds major strategic and economic value. The line enters Iran through Sarakhs in the northeast, crosses several provinces, and exits via the Maku Free Zone at Cheshmeh Soraya toward Kars, Turkey.

"This is the only nonstop all-rail corridor in the world, and the master plan's approval helps eliminate a major bottleneck," he said, adding that China is investing \$1 trillion in three main transit routes to Europe, one of which passes through West Azarbaijan and the Maku Free Zone.

"If just ten percent of trade moves through the Maku route, it could generate \$100 billion in added value—exceeding Iran's oil revenues," Ghorbani said.

He noted that 90 kilometers of the corridor pass through West Azarbaijan, running from Marand to Maku Airport, designated as a lo-

gistics village, before continuing to Cheshmeh Soraya and into Turkey.

Ghorbani added that Maku also holds potential to become a regional hub for re-exports or manufacturing and export activities, highlighting President Pezeshkian's strong support for the zone. "The president's special attention to Maku is something we deeply appreciate," he said.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday launched a national smart transformation initiative for the country's free trade and special economic zones, unveiling three digital platforms aimed at boosting transparency, efficiency, and tourism.

The project, announced on the sidelines of a meeting of the Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones High Council, includes a digital tourist card system to facilitate purchases by foreign visitors, an online platform offering hotel and restaurant discounts, and a cargo management system for real-time truck scheduling and shipment tracking.

Developed in collaboration with domestic tech firms and knowledge-based companies, the project is part of a broader strategy to transform Iran's free zones into next-generation digital economic hubs.

Officials say the initiative is expected to streamline service delivery, enhance governance, and reduce the impact of sanctions through increased digital resilience.

Over time, the system will integrate additional service chains, potentially reshaping the role of free zones in Iran's economic governance model.

The government says the project also supports improved transparency, better resource management, and a more agile administrative framework aligned with the strategic goals of the Free Zones Council.

The secretary of Free and Special Economic Zones High Council has recently said that during the 12 days of the imposed war, 118,000 tons of basic commodities were cleared from seven free zones, which was aimed at meeting the country's needs.

Reza Masrouf announced the important measures taken in the country's free zones in recent months and said: "One of the main priorities in these zones was to accelerate the clearance of essential goods, which was successfully carried out."

In line with this goal, detailed planning was carried out in all free zones, and as a result, during the 12 days of the imposed war, approximately 118,000 tons of basic goods were cleared from the country's seven free zones, the official reiterated, adding that of course, if demand increases from new zones, this figure will increase significantly.

The secretary of the Free and Special Economic Zones High Council has said that Iran is set to implement a major restructuring of its free trade zones in a bid to revive their role in regional commerce and national economic development.

Masrouf said that although the zones were designed to drive trade, investment, and

servation programs.

"Using seawater is a reliable and strategic alternative that reduces dependence on urban water supplies, helping stabilize industrial and refining operations," Bagheri-Dizaj noted.

The second phase of the project will involve the construction of approximately 400 kilometers of new pipelines and related infrastructure to directly transport water from the Gulf of Oman. Design work is complete, and execution will begin once funding is secured.

Isfahan Refinery is one of the largest refineries in Iran and is considered as the first refinery in the country in terms of diversity of petroleum products. In addition to refining crude oil and producing petroleum products, the company also supplies feed to downstream industries and currently produces more than 20 percent of the country's petroleum products. The company's products include gasoline, kerosene, gas oil, fuel oil, liquefied petroleum gas, crude oil, special solvents, sulfur, aircraft fuels, and other petroleum products.

transit, they have fallen short of expectations in recent years.

He announced the beginning of a reengineering process, backed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, to redefine the function and governance of these areas.

The transformation plan focuses on deep legal, institutional, and infrastructural reforms, alongside new policies to turn the zones into export-oriented hubs.

Each zone will align its activities with its own strengths, such as transit logistics, tourism, downstream industries, or advanced technologies, he added.

Authorities also aim to transition the zones into what officials describe as "seventh-generation" areas—drawing on modern international development models.

Three key documents are being drafted to guide this transition: a strategic roadmap for reform, a digital economy blueprint, and a national productivity program.

The strategic roadmap is designed to identify systemic challenges, reassess the direction of the zones, and develop macro and sector-specific policies.

The digital economy document links the potential of tech-driven innovation with the commercial ecosystems of the free zones. The productivity program is aimed at defining and applying performance benchmarks to improve efficiency across all regions.

Masrouf said these plans are being developed in collaboration with Iran's top economic policy experts and research centers, using global models and tailored analyses of domestic and international conditions.

He added that the content reflects a broader strategy to redesign governance, strengthen the zones' missions based on competitive advantages, reform outdated laws and institutions, and harness Iran's geopolitical and socioeconomic position—including international trade corridors, regional markets, energy routes, and technology capabilities.

He expressed confidence that with support from the minister of economic affairs, the plans would mark the beginning of a more focused, dynamic, and effective era for Iran's free trade zones.

During a meeting with President Masoud Pezeshkian in last December, Masrouf said that Iran's free trade zones collectively offer a bulk capacity of 61 million tons and 1.4 million TEUs, with the ability to handle 12 million passengers annually.

During the session, the official presented a review of the maritime economy and port capacities of key free zones, including Anzali, Kish, Qeshm, Chabahar, Arvand, Bushehr, and Mazandaran.

In that meeting, President Pezeshkian underscored the importance of fully utilizing the existing capacities of free trade zones. He called for the preparation of a strategic roadmap for these zones and emphasized the development of north-south and east-west transit corridors, with input from prominent consultants in the free trade sector.

# Western lip service won't stop Israeli genocide in Gaza



A girl's body is carried from a house destroyed by an Israeli strike in Gaza City [Khames Alrefi/Anadolu]



Protesters in New York call on the US government to stop arming Israel [Eduardo Munoz/Reuters]

From page 1 ▶ On Tuesday, UN human rights office spokesman Thameen Al-Kheetan told AFP that over 1,000 Palestinians have been shot dead by Israeli forces while trying to obtain food aid since late May alone—a staggering and deliberate assault on the most basic human need.

The Health Ministry in Gaza reported Wednesday that the total number of people who have starved to death has risen to more than 110, the majority of them children.

Starvation, once used as a tool of ancient warfare, has now become a modern weapon in Israel's campaign against Palestinians.

The violence has also extended to the press. Gaza's Government Media Office confirmed Israel's killing of two more Palestinian journalists, bringing the total number of media workers killed since October 2023 to 231—an unmistakable pattern of silencing voices that report the truth from the ground.

Global fury is boiling over. In New York City, anti-war demonstrators gathered Tuesday to demand an immediate halt to Israel's bombardment and blockade.

Their signs read: "Stop Starving Gaza Now," "Feed Gaza's Babies," and "Open the Border, End the Blockade." Protests also erupted

in Washington, DC, Chicago, San Francisco, and cities across Europe and beyond, denouncing the siege and demanding an end to the West's complicity.

In response to mounting public pressure, Western leaders have been forced to speak out. A joint statement issued by 25 countries—including Britain, France, Canada, Australia, and members of the European Union—criticized Israel's obstruction of aid delivery, calling it "dangerous," "destabilizing," and a violation of international humanitarian law.

They declared: "The Israeli government's denial of essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population is unacceptable."

But mere condemnation is meaningless in the face of Israel's deliberate campaign of starvation and slaughter in Gaza.

What is urgently required is concrete action—imposing sanctions, halting arms sales, and severing political support.

Western governments that continue to issue hollow statements without taking real steps to punish Israel's war crimes are not bystanders—they are enablers. Every moment they delay action, they deepen their complicity in the genocide of the Palestinian people.

## Tunisian president shows US envoy photographs of starving children in Gaza



Tunisian President Kais Saied has presented Massad Boulos, US President Donald Trump's top Africa adviser, with images of starving children in the Gaza Strip.

Official video from the meeting at the presidential palace in Carthage showed the Tunisian president telling Boulos that "it is time for all of humanity to wake up and put an end to these crimes against the Palestinian people," Al Jazeera reported.

"I believe you know these images well," Saied was seen telling the envoy as he showed a photograph of what he described as "a child crying, eating sand in occupied Palestine."

"In the 21st century, he eats sand because he found nothing else. Sand in his hands, another dying and taking his last breath from hunger."

Saied showed Boulos several more images, saying Palestinians in Gaza were subjected to crimes against humanity.

"It is absolutely unacceptable," Saied was heard saying as Boulos stood silently, occasionally nodding. "It is a crime against all of humanity."

## Aid groups blame Israel's siege of Gaza for 'mass starvation'



More than 100 aid agencies and rights groups, including Save the Children and Doctors Without Borders, warned that "mass starvation" was spreading across Gaza, adding to calls for Israel to lift restrictions on humanitarian aid to the besieged enclave, the New York Times reported.

The joint statement is the latest attempt to draw attention to a growing hunger crisis in Gaza. It was released after the European Union and at least 28 governments, including Israeli allies like Britain, France and Canada, on Monday condemned the "drip feeding of aid" and said that civilian suffering had "reached new depths."

Doctors Without Borders in Gaza has reported a "sharp and unprecedented rise in acute malnutrition." Adults frequently collapse from hunger, the aid groups said in their statement, adding that stockpiles of food and other supplies warehoused outside the territory were being prevented from reaching people in need.

Gaza's health ministry said on Wednesday that hospitals had registered more deaths because of famine or malnutrition in the previous 24 hours, bringing the total number of deaths from hunger since Saturday to 43.

The United Nations' World Food Program said this week that nearly a third of Gaza's population, which stands at 2.1 million, was not eating for multiple days in a row. "People are dying for lack of humanitarian assistance," it said in a statement.

Israel blocked deliveries of aid between March and May after it ended a ceasefire with Hamas. Since then, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation has managed a new system in which people go to a few distribution sites to obtain aid.

The United Nations said last week that more than 670 people had been killed near the new aid sites, many as a result of gunfire, and that hundreds of others had been injured.

The United Nations has said that insecurity and restrictions imposed by the Israeli military often make delivering food within

Gaza impossible. Around 500 trucks of aid and commercial supplies were delivered to Gaza each day before the war, it said, but that number plummeted after the conflict started and has dropped even further since the ceasefire collapsed.

The Trump administration has argued that its immediate priority is to secure a new ceasefire, given that the amount of aid entering Gaza spiked during the previous truce.

The administration's envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, was set to travel to the region this week for talks on the war, a State Department spokeswoman, Tammy Bruce, told reporters on Tuesday. Mr. Witkoff wanted to achieve a cease-fire and a "humanitarian corridor for aid to flow," she added.

Israel's foreign ministry said that by issuing the statement, the aid groups were impeding the chances of a new ceasefire to pause the war.

The groups that signed the statement, which also included CARE, Christian Aid and Amnesty International, said the U.N.-led system that had previously handled aid to Gaza had worked but that it was "prevented from functioning." They said that only 28 trucks of aid were now being distributed in Gaza each day.

The groups added that their workers in Gaza, whose job is to provide support to civilians, were so hungry that they were now risking their own lives by joining food lines.

Civilians in Gaza said the lack of food had become critical. A'eed Abu Khater, 48, who said he was living in a tent in Gaza City in the north of the enclave, said that his 17-year-old son, Atef, had been hospitalized with severe malnutrition for 15 days and his condition was deteriorating.

"I had to leave the hospital — I couldn't bear to see him like this. He is not responding to the treatment," Mr. Khater said in a telephone interview, adding that the boy had been healthy before the war.

"I can't describe how terrible the situation is. I can't hold back my tears. This is my son."

## Trump has turned US into a rogue and pariah state



From page 1 ▶ The strikes, which are an act of aggression and illegal under international law, could have led to environmental catastrophes, even though some experts still don't rule out the possibility of nuclear disasters.

Speaking at a forum at the Institute for Political and International Studies in Tehran about 18 years ago, Germany's Joseph Joschka said the world would descend into chaos without the United States.

However, the United States itself is now pushing the world toward anarchy and lawlessness.

In his term as president, he started defying international rules and regulations. He recognized Jerusalem (al-Quds) as Israel's capital, moved the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to the city, and recognized the Syrian Golan Heights as Israel's territory, pulled out of the JCPOA, the Paris climate agreement, and the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

His recognition of occupied Jerusalem as Israel's capital took place while the international community was and is still working, of course with a lesser hope, on establishing a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In his first term, it was thought that Trump was inexperienced and was living in his dreams because he had not served in top managerial posts such as a mayor, governor, or served in Senate before being catapulted to the powerful post of president.

Yet, he began his second presidency after a four-year hiatus with more thoughtless remarks and actions.

On the first day of his presidency in the second term, Trump signed an executive order to again withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement that the country had joined in during the Joe Biden presidency. In his announcement, Trump stated that "as of today, the United States will cease all implementation of the Paris agreement."

His remarks that Canada should join the U.S. were first taken as a joke. However, after repetition it became clear that he was serious in his statements.

In his newest remarks, Trump told Fox News, "Frankly, Canada should be the 51st state, okay? It really should, because Canada relies entirely on the United States. We don't rely on Canada."

His threat of annexing Greenland, that caused transatlantic division, caused shivers in the bones of Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen prompting her to visit Berlin, Paris, and Brussels in late January with a focus on fostering "European unity". In Brussels, she met with former NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte.

The Trump administration also introduced sanctions on the UN Human Rights Council special rapporteur Francesca Albanese for Palestine as an outspoken critic of Israel's military offensive in Gaza.

Intolerant of Albanese's criticism of companies such as arms manufacturer Lockheed Martin for selling weapons, and tech firms Alphabet, IBM, Microsoft and Amazon for providing technology which allows Israel to track and target Palestinians, provoked the U.S. to resort to the repetitive old policy of accusing the UN official of being anti-Semitic.

On July 21, in his latest rash decision, Trump pulled the U.S. out of the UN culture and education agency UNESCO, repeating a move he had already ordered during his first term, which had also been reversed under Biden. Trump justified the decision by claiming that the UN body is anti-Semitic.

All these moves are portraying the United States as a bully, rogue and pariah state that will make countries, even American friends, to rethink the quality of their relations with Washington.

## Barrack, the Don Quixote of US imperialism

From page 1 ▶ Commenting on Barack's lie, journalist Pierre Abi Saab wrote on X: "This is Trump's culture and this is the Trump administration: a culture of domination, arrogance, and colonial barbarism; a culture steeped in illiteracy, ignorance, impudence, and absolute self-confidence, based on contempt for all rules and norms, and a rejection of international legitimacy and international law. They all come from the same intellectual stable!"

For his part, journalist Hassan Illaik wrote: "The idiot [Morgan Ortagus] has been succeeded by an even idiot."

It is often said "there is a world of difference between the two" when comparing a seasoned sage with an evasive man.

This is the case when comparing Washington's diplomats with Tehran's diplomats, such as late Amir Hossein Abdollahian, who moved from one country to another defending the dignity of the peoples of West Asia until his honorable martyrdom.

As for the likes of Washington's notorious diplomats, whom

there is no room to mention here, as each is more devious than the next, like Thomas Barrack, whose record is replete with gambling, financial and moral scandals, but they come to us to preach about honor and dignity.

Observers have expressed their fear about the path the situation in Lebanon could take after Barrack's departure, particularly given his threat that Washington would withdraw its hand from "mediation" if Lebanon did not abide by the clause requiring Hezbollah to disarm.

This could lead to Lebanon being isolated internationally and Arab-wide as a punishment for its well-calculated stance.

The U.S. envoy reiterated, "My role is a political mediator to positively influence the parties."

The irony is that Barrack has never been a "mediator," but rather a mouthpiece for Israel as he himself stated, "We are in Lebanon to help bring about peace, but there is a timetable, and time is running out."

In parallel, a hostile infantry



force of approximately 20 Israeli soldiers penetrated from the vicinity of the border town of Ab-basiyeh toward the Rihana Bari area in the Mari plain, at dawn on Wednesday, searching several homes, and interrogated a number of Lebanese residents and Syrian workers.

For more than an hour and a half, Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri presented Barrack with detailed figures on the Lebanese citizens killed by Israel, since November 27, reminding him of what was happening in Syria.

Berri stressed that as long as the situation remained as it was, it would be difficult for anyone to

raise the issue of disarming the Resistance, especially since tens of thousands of Lebanese remain displaced as a result of the ongoing aggression, and preventing the southerners from returning to their demolished villages to reconstruct them.

Barrack also met Druze leader Walid Jumblatt to dissect what is happening in Syria, claiming that al-Sharaa has only 25,000 soldiers and that they are incapable of threatening Lebanon. According to Axios, Barrack arranged an Israeli-Syrian meeting in Paris on Thursday to formulate "urgent security understandings" regarding southern Syria.

## Alborz province conveys an essence of Iran's history and culture: Minister

TEHRAN—Alborz province is a compact representation of the history, nature, culture, and civilization of Iran and should become a transformative axis in the country's tourism policymaking system, said Minister of Cultural Heritage Reza Salehi-Amiri on Wednesday.

Speaking during his one-day visit to Alborz province and a field visit to its historical monuments, tourism projects and under-construction infrastructure, he said: "Alborz is a comprehensive mirror of Iran's potential, a province that has incorporated what we know about geography, history, nature, heritage, and industry in Iran in a dense and unique way," ILNA reported.

Expressing the warm greetings of the President to the educated and patient people of the province, he added that the government is duty-bound to take steps for resolving the people's problems, and boosting balanced development in cultural and economic infrastructure of the regions.

Alborz is not a marginal province, but a center of civilization that should become the new hub of Iranian tourism, he pointed out.

Pointing to the strategic Alborz position in heart of the country's communications network, he said that Alborz province is at the forefront of bearing the population burden of Tehran and the western and northern axes. Therefore, it needs national approach, cross-sectoral decisions, and extensive investment in tourism and services sector, he added.

He emphasized that Alborz tourism infrastructure should reach the global standards. It should be an entrance gateway for international tours to Iran, he pointed out.

## Farsan to host national festival of Iranian clans

TEHRAN—Farsan county in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, has been selected to host a national festival of Iranian clans, the provincial tourism chief has said.

According to IRIB, speaking at the gathering for coordination of the festival, Alireza Jeylan also said that the festival will be held with the participation of clans from various provinces during the second half of the Iranian month of Shahrivar.

He explained that the national festival of Iranian clans, which is hosted by Farsan county and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, has been registered on the National Festival Calendar.

Jeylan emphasized that this year's event should be held with better planning.

Farsan country is situated in the mountainous region of the north and northwest segment of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province. It is located 35 km from Shahr-e-Kord, and 578 km from Tehran.

## UN laments U.S. withdrawal from its educational and cultural agency

The United States announced on Tuesday that it will leave the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which will take effect at the end of December 2026.

"I deeply regret President Donald Trump's decision to once again withdraw the United States of America from UNESCO," Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of the Paris-based agency, said in a statement.

She underscored that "this decision contradicts the fundamental principles of multilateralism," and highlighted how it would affect UNESCO partners in the U.S., including communities seeking site inscription.

In New York, UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said that the Secretary-General joins Ms. Azoulay "in deeply regretting the decision by the United States."

The U.S. first withdrew from UNESCO in 1984 under President Ronald Reagan and didn't rejoin for two decades. Fourteen years after re-entry, the first Trump administration withdrew from the organization in 2017,

Referring to the unique potentials of Alborz province in archaeological heritage, he said this province is known as the capital of Iran's ancient hills. Almost no point in Alborz is devoid of historical monuments and natural attractions, he added.

He emphasized the beginning of scientific explorations in the hills and historical settlements of the province, stating: "Specialized archaeological teams will come to the province with cooperation of the Cultural Heritage Ministry's Research Institute in near future. This process will take about a year, and its results will be shared transparently with the public and provincial administrators."

Salehi-Amiri named revival of historical spaces, establishment of the specialized museums, organizing the rural heritage and creating public viewing routes as the major goals of the projects.

He gave news of imminent inauguration of a five-star hotel with support of the province's governor-general in Karaj city. This hotel is an important step towards the internationalization of Alborz tourism, he added.

Currently, several tourism projects are under construction across the province, he said.

The minister pointed out that Alborz province should turn into a national brand and then a global destination. This requires careful introduction, smart planning, and institutional support, he added.

Alborz province is one of the 31 provinces of Iran. Its capital is the city of Karaj, which lies 10 km west of Tehran, at the foothills of the Alborz mountains. Alborz is Iran's smallest province in area.

The city of Farsan is one of the important summer residing places for Bakhtiari Tribe, which has excellent weather conditions due to resting in the midst of the inner ranges of the Zagros Mountains

People are mostly Bakhtiari and they believe that the city comes from the Behdarvand clan. However, through urbanization, it became a destination for many immigrants from close and far villages and towns. They speak in Bakhtiari which contains a lot of Pahlavi and Avestan words. A unique sight to see in Farsan region is the seasonal migration of Bakhtiaries accompanying and watching which leads to a different experience to the new comers' eyes. In a seasonal migration, all the properties of families are also carried along with horses and on the way, there are green grasslands for sheep and goats, shepherds playing Ney, shooting ceremonies, traditional group dancing, Tarkeh Bazi (a traditional game), and local folklore.

which was reversed under President Joseph Biden in 2023.

A White House press statement on the withdrawal said the decision had been taken to protect American interests from UNESCO's work to advance "divisive social and cultural causes."

The statement also said the organization is focused on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which it described as "a globalist, ideological agenda for international development at odds with our America First foreign policy."

The statement also specifically cited UNESCO's decision to admit the State of Palestine as a Member State as problematic, contrary to U.S. policy and fuelling the United Nations' "anti-Israel rhetoric."

Ms. Azoulay in her statement denied these claims that UNESCO is "anti-Israel," highlighting the organization's work in Holocaust education and combating antisemitism.

(Source: United Nations)

# World Heritage listing validates Iran's commitment to preserving Paleolithic past

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – The recent inscription of the Prehistoric Sites of Khorramabad Valley on UNESCO's World Heritage List marks a significant achievement for Iranian archaeology, capping over fifty years of dedicated research and excavation.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Dr. Masoumeh Mosala, Director of the Iranian Center for Archaeological Research (ICAR), emphasized the importance of the UNESCO designation.

"This designation is a landmark achievement. It validates the enduring importance of archaeological study, highlighting our discipline's critical role in gaining international recognition and securing the long-term protection of ancient sites."

"This inscription reflects more than half a century of systematic excavations and scientific inquiry," she underlined.

Talking about the efforts made to develop a professional file for a UNESCO nomination, Mosala said: "The nomination dossier was meticulously developed, drawing on comprehensive research at major sites including Yafteh, Ghamari, Kaldar, Gilvaran, Gar Arjeneh, and Kunji caves."

The sites were inscribed under



UNESCO Criterion (iii), recognizing their outstanding testimony to the cultural traditions of early modern humans. Dr. Mosala emphasized the significance of key discoveries -- such as perforated shell and deer-tooth ornaments from Yafteh Cave (dating to 40,000–30,000 years ago) and recent evidence of Neanderthal occupation in Ghamari Cave --as "vital to understanding human adaptation during the Paleolithic period in the Zagros region." These findings, she added, demonstrate a high level of cognitive and cultural complexity that could only be revealed through rigorous archaeological

science.

"A successful UNESCO nomination is not an administrative task—it's a scholarly achievement," Mosala said.

"It requires deep expertise in stratigraphy, material culture, and both regional and global context. Only archaeologists can synthesize decades of data, articulate their significance, and respond effectively to technical evaluations, as was exemplified in this dossier."

She also stressed the strategic strength of a multi-site nomination rooted in archaeology: "By presenting a network of caves

## Archaeologists race to preserve looted Parthian-era cemetery in Yazd

TEHRAN - Archaeologists have launched a major effort to document and preserve the looted Gour-e Kafari Cemetery, which is located in Bahabad county of Yazd province, officials from the Iranian Center for Archaeological Research (ICAR) announced.

In June 2025, a major archaeological survey and test excavation began at the Gour-e Kafari Cemetery site. The project is directed by Dr. Mohammad Hossein Azizi Kharanaghi, Deputy for Research at the Iranian Center for Archaeological Research (ICAR).

The site, located in the southwest of Bahabad city near Kouvjan village, is approximately 156 km from Yazd, the provincial capital. Despite its vast cultural depth, Yazd Province remains one of Iran's most underexplored archaeological regions.

"For decades, this region has been overshadowed by the architectural fame of Yazd's historical districts," Dr. Azizi Kharanaghi explains. "But beneath its desert surface lies a much older story—one we're only just beginning to uncover."

The situation in Bahabad county is even more critical. "This part of Yazd has virtually no established archaeological sequence. It's a complete blank on the cultural-historical map," he emphasizes. This lack of systematic research has left ancient sites vulnerable to damage. According to Dr. Azizi Kharanaghi, Yazd province receives "the smallest share of archaeological surveys in the entire country." The consequence: vast swaths of undocumented heritage and a fragile understanding of the region's past.



Gour-e Kafari Cemetery is a striking example. Spread over nearly 1,000 hectares, the survey identified 1,793 graves—evidence of a large and long-used burial ground.

"This level of density, across such a wide area, is scarce," says Azizi Kharanaghi.

"Kouvjan's Gour-e Kafari Cemetery is without question one of the most expansive burial landscapes from the Parthian period in Iran."

Yet the site has suffered devastating losses. For over 40 years, looters have ravaged the cemetery. Dr. Azizi Kharanaghi estimates that more than 90% of the graves have been destroyed.

"We are quite literally racing against time. This site has been bleeding for decades," he states. "Had it been registered earlier, we might have saved much more."

Efforts to protect the site had previously stalled. "The lack of expert recognition meant the cemetery was never registered on the National Heritage List," Azizi Kharanaghi notes. "When a site's importance isn't clearly understood or documented, it becomes invisible to those in charge of

protecting it."

To better understand the cemetery, the team conducted test excavations in five graves. Due to the graves' shallow construction and soil conditions, few human remains were preserved.

"The environment here accelerates decay—moisture seeps into the graves easily, leaving behind only fragments of bone in most cases," he added.

Grave goods were typically minimal, consisting of a pair of ceramic vessels placed near the head or feet, and small bronze objects, such as bracelets, rings, and beads. Based on the preliminary analysis, the cemetery likely dates to the Parthian period (247 BC – 224 CE).

"We believe this was the resting place of ordinary people—farmers, herders, perhaps miners—who lived and died in this region more than 1,800 years ago," he suggests.

"Still, we must emphasize: this is only an initial hypothesis. Our interpretations will evolve as more data comes in."

Following the completion of the fieldwork, the research team's top priority is preparing a formal registration dossier for the cemetery.

"We are fully committed to seeing this site added to the National Heritage List. It's not only a matter of preservation but of restoring dignity to a community whose memory has been erased by neglect and looting," Dr. Azizi Kharanaghi affirms.

The project is funded by Bahabad Municipality and conducted under the supervision of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

## Cultural Heritage Ministry, Qeshm Free Zone Organization determined to preserve Laft heritage

TEHRAN—The Cultural Heritage Ministry and Qeshm Free Zone Organization have started a coordinated effort to promote tourism and cultural infrastructure and prepare the ground for global registration of the Laft historical region in the central district of Qeshm Island, Hormozgan province, for preserving this ancient settlement alongside the Persian Gulf.

In this regard, Farhad Azizi Zalani, a senior official of the Cultural Heritage Ministry, met Adel Peyghami, managing director of Qeshm Free Zone Organization in Tehran, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, Azizi Zalani said that Laft is one of the focal points in preserving the indigenous architecture and manifestation of values of urban planning in the south of the country.

This dialogue will be the beginning of a successful model of multi-layered partnership for the physical, cultural and semantic regeneration of this historic port, he added.

Pointing to the upcoming projects, he said that improving the quality of physical structure, restoration of ancient mansions and monuments, organizing the passages, and improving the walls and historical parts of Laft have been put on the agenda. These measures will be implemented with contribution of Qeshm Free Zone Organization, he added.

Azizi Zalani continued that the historical port of Laft has been defined as a national base under the supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage since 2021, and since then, a series of study, protection, and restoration projects with a specialized perspective have been initiated in this area.

The support of institutions such as the Qeshm Free Zone Organization in the implementation of these projects has opened new horizons for the balanced and identity-oriented development of this texture, he added.

Also, Adel Peyghami, managing director of Qeshm Free Zone Orga-

nization, called Laft a symbol of historical identity of Qeshm Island.

He said that investment in tangible and intangible heritage of Laft can guarantee the cultural identity of Qeshm and promote cultural tourism in national and international levels.

Qeshm Free Zone Organization is ready to develop its administrative and field cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, he added.

The national registration of the Laft base and the plans made to enhance its global status would not have been possible without the scientific and managerial support of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, and now it is time for it to bear fruit through field synergy, he mentioned.

Also, Sheikh Ahmad Powazi, Friday prayer leader and head of the Islamic City Council of Laft, said: "The revival of Laft is not possible without public participation and help of local institutions. We have been on this path for years, and today these efforts are strengthened with the support

and rock shelters—spanning Neanderthal, early Homo sapiens, and later occupations—the Khorramabad nomination offered a cohesive narrative of human presence. That kind of integrative story can only be told through archaeology."

Dr. Mosala affirmed that this achievement raises Iran's profile in global Paleolithic heritage, aligning it with leading nations such as France and China. However, she warned that World Heritage status is only the beginning: "With international recognition comes greater responsibility—to protect these sites and to deepen interdisciplinary research. This is an opportunity to push the frontiers of our understanding of human history in the Zagros."

In conclusion, she called for expanded collaboration and sustained investment: "The success of the Khorramabad dossier sets a standard. It shows that long-term, high-caliber archaeological work—combined with expert engagement in the heritage process—can yield transformative results. This moment should inspire new partnerships, increased research funding, and a renewed commitment to preserving Iran's unique legacy in the story of humanity."

# Interior minister, UNHCR representative discuss issues on Afghan refugees

TEHRAN – Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Filippo Grandi, have explored ways to address problems related to Afghan refugees living in the country and those being deported.

The officials met on Tuesday in Tehran. The meeting focused on holding a trilateral meeting among Iranian officials, Afghan officials, and UNHCR representatives to increase financial assistance from international organizations, organize Afghan refugees, and prevent drug trafficking, according to the Ministry of Interior's website.

During the meeting, Grandi lauded Iran's generosity in hosting refugees over the past four decades. "I'm personally well aware of the burden the country and the Iranian people are going through. Unfortunately, the international community's support for Iran has significantly declined in recent years. However, we ask Iran to return (illegal) immigrants gradually, not to put Afghanistan under pressure because the country cannot accept them all at once due to economic and social problems."

The official hoped that Iran would continue its humanitarian approach with the contributions of the international community.

For his part, Momeni said, "Unauthorized refugees will be returned to their home countries without being asked any



questions anywhere in the world. However, in Iran, if an Afghan's life is threatened or if they are sick and need to stay here for treatment, their return will be delayed. They have not been deported violently.

Afghan governors have seen firsthand how the deported nationals were treated respectfully."

The official went on to say that some three to four legal Afghans are residing in the country who are working and are respected by Iranians. Their children are attending the same schools as Iranians, and work in Iranian workshops, he added.

Nader Yar-Ahmadi, the head of the National Organization for Migration, for his part, said Iran has hosted Afghan refugees for over four decades, and will continue to do so in a different way, though. Only documented refu-

gees will be able to benefit from the services in the country.

"Mr. Grandi has honestly confessed that international financial support is nothing compared to the country's extremely costly measures. We expect the international community to enhance its assistance," Yar-Ahmadi highlighted.

### Deported Afghans get health services at border terminal

Some 36,000 illegal Afghan refugees have benefited from medical services offered on the Dogharon border terminal in Taybad, north-eastern Khorasan Razavi province, while returning to their home country, an official with the health ministry said on Monday.

They were visited by physicians and received nursing services. They were also educated about proper hygiene practices and ways to avoid communicable

diseases. Also, suspicious cases received testing, IRNA quoted Soudabeh Nekouhi as saying.

Heatstroke, food poisoning, and high blood pressure were among the main reasons to visit the health center, she added.

From the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21), medical products worth one billion rials (almost 1.150 dollars) have been distributed among undocumented refugees in Dogharon. Moreover, 22,492 Afghans who have legally entered the country were screened, and 10,753 individuals were vaccinated as part of the prevention program, Nekouhi said.

All the Afghan nationals, 85 percent of whom are men, are screened and tested for 16 different diseases, she further noted.

In May, Grandi appreciated Iran's efforts in providing services to refugees in different fields, such as health, education, and employment.

The valuable services offered by Iran, in the face of sanctions and some economic problems, are really valuable and commendable, IRNA quoted Grandi as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi; the officials met on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA), held from May 19 to June 27 in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Iranian, Armenian universities to boost scientific ties on environmental issues

TEHRAN –Mohammad-Hossein Omid, the chancellor of University of Tehran, and Grigor Hakobyan, the Armenian ambassador to Iran, have explored the potential to expand scientific collaboration on critical environmental challenges.

The officials held a meeting in Tehran on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Referring to the unique relationships between the two countries, Hakobyan said University of Tehran is a well-known university in the region and the world. The official announced Armenia's readiness to foster scientific cooperation with University of Tehran through holding collaborative conferences, exchanging professors and students, as well as conducting research on topics like environment and water.

The official proposed launching an Armenian language literature major at University of Tehran, saying that the Armenia National Academy of Science and most Armenian universities offer Iranian studies programs to students.

For his part, Omid highlighted boosting joint efforts on critical issues such as climate change, air pollution, environment, and water, which have already affected Iran and will soon impact other countries, including Arme-



nia. The official proposed conducting joint research projects on these common challenges to develop the best solutions.

### University of Tehran rankings

The 22nd edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings (WUR), 2026, has placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, unchanged from the 2025 ranking.

University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 322, ranks first among the Iranian universities.

The Round University Ranking (RUR) 2025 has placed 36 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world, up from 32 universities in 2024.

University of Tehran with a global ranking of 202, is placed third in the country.

Based on the Research Ranking index, University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 138) is placed first in the country.

The Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2025 has placed 85 Iranian universities among the top Asian institutions, compared to 75 universities in 2024. University of Tehran was ranked 97 globally.

The 15th edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2025 has included 17 Iranian universities in 21 subject entries, compared to 17 Iranian universities in 17 subject entries in 2024. In Engineering and Technology subject area, University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 280, is placed first in the country.

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (WUR) by international outlook 2025 has ranked 85 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world. University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 401-500, rank third.

THE World University Rankings 2025 has placed 81 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 subject areas, compared to 73 universities in 2024.

Iran's best rankings are in Computer Science, and Engineering. University of Tehran (20 -250) ranked second.

## ENGLISH IN USE

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## Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols against the coronavirus pandemic.

The opening bell of the new academic year was rung symbolically by President Hassan Rouhani at a high school in Tehran.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, symbolically attended the virtual festival.

More than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country, he said.

This year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance, he noted

## بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

رنگ آغاز سال تحصیلی به صورت ارتباط تصویری در مراسمی به دستور رئیس جمهور در دبیرستانی در تهران نواخته شد.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.

وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است.

## ‘Support for hemophilia’ week to be observed

TEHRAN – The national week to support individuals with hemophilia will be held from July 23 to 29.

Hemophilia is usually an inherited bleeding disorder in which the blood does not clot properly, and it mostly affects males. It is estimated to occur in about 1 of every 5,000 male births. People with hemophilia have low levels of proteins called clotting factors that help to stop bleeding.

The disease can result in spontaneous bleeding within joints, leading to chronic joint disease and pain, bleeding in the skin, head, and brain, which can cause seizures and paralysis.

It can also lead to excessive bleeding following injuries or surgery. Death can occur if the bleeding cannot be stopped or if it occurs in a vital organ such as the brain.

The days of the week will be centered around the following themes.

Wednesday, July 23, Hemophilia and bleeding disorders in women and girls

Thursday, July 24, Hemophilia and physiotherapy

Friday, July 25, Hemophilia, exercise, and happiness

Saturday, July 26, Hemophilia and education

Sunday, July 27, Hemophilia and demands

Monday, July 28, Hemophilia and preventing birth defects

Tuesday, July 29, Hemophilia and success

Over the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, a total of 26 patients (aged 9 to 50) with hemophilia lost their lives from a lack of medicines caused by sanctions, according to the chairman of the board of the Iranian Hemophilia Society.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must do its best to fairly distribute the medicines needed by the patients, IRNA quoted Amin Afshar as saying.

## IRCS urges ICRC to take immediate actions on humanitarian crisis in Gaza

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in a letter to the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has called for prompt actions to be taken to stop the humanitarian crisis escalated by starvation in Gaza, and end the torture of civilians.

Referring to the reports of the World Food Program (WFP) and United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the IRCS head Pir-Hossein Kolivand said that about a quarter of the Gaza population is facing famine, and thousands of women and children have died because of malnutrition.

Also, there have been reports of Zionist military forces targeting civilians waiting in line for food, the official added.

The letter highlights Israeli actions as a clear example of war crimes and a clear violation of the principles of humanitarian law. The actions of the Israeli regime could fall under the definition of genocide in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the 1948 Convention.

The official went on to call on the ICRC to utilize all its capacities to expand humanitarian diplomacy with responsible institutions to pave the way for humanitarian aid to the region.

### Erasing Gaza via starvation

Israel's relentless military assault on Gaza continues to leave a trail of death, destruction, and starvation, as the international community remains largely passive in the face of what many now describe as a deliberate campaign of extermination.

On Monday alone, Israeli strikes killed dozens more Palestinians, according to medical sources. Just a day earlier, Israeli troops slaughtered more than 100 Palestinians across the besieged strip — including 92



The official made the remarks on April 23, on the occasion of World Hemophilia Day, which is observed on April 17 annually.

The official went on to say that some 14,000 hemophilia patients are registered in the country now. Lack of medicine for factor 8 and factor 9 hemophilia is quite evident in the country, which risks the lives of the patients.

Apart from the shortage of drugs, there are some problems in the distribution system due to a lack of careful monitoring. So, the medicines are not fully and adequately available to hemophilia patients, which results in acute problems, including disability, he noted.

World Hemophilia Day aims to promote the importance of taking coordinated and concerted actions to achieve the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) vision of 'treatment for all', draw attention to the key issues, and put hemophilia and bleeding disorders in the spotlight.

This year's theme was "Access for all: Women and girls bleed too". Today, women and girls with bleeding disorders (WGBDs) are still underdiagnosed and underserved. The global bleeding disorders community has the power—and the responsibility—to change this. Through recognition, diagnosis, treatment, and care, the quality of life of women and girls will improve, and the bleeding disorders community will become stronger.

unarmed civilians who were shot dead while desperately seeking food near the Zikim crossing in northern Gaza and at aid distribution points in Rafah and Khan Younis.

The humanitarian crisis has reached catastrophic levels under Israel's suffocating siege, which has pushed Gaza to the edge of famine. With vital crossings sealed and aid severely restricted, Gaza's 2.3 million residents face starvation in real time.

The UNRWA has sounded the alarm, revealing it is receiving "desperate messages of starvation" from inside Gaza — including from its own staff. In a post on X, the agency wrote: "Food prices have increased 40-fold. Meanwhile, just outside Gaza, stockpiled in warehouses UNRWA has enough food for the entire population for over three months."

Calling the crisis "man-made," UNRWA demanded urgent intervention: "The suffering in Gaza is manmade and must be stopped. Lift the siege and let aid in safely and at scale."

The WFP echoed these warnings. Antoine Renard, WFP's representative for Palestine, told Al Jazeera from occupied East Jerusalem (al-Quds): "You have a level of despair that people are ready to risk their lives just to reach any of the assistance actually coming into Gaza. Just to give you an idea, [the price of] 1kg of flour is currently \$100."

Renard added that many families are going days without food, surviving on meals every third day. He noted that only a "very limited" number of charity kitchens are still operating, with malnutrition soaring and fainting among civilians becoming increasingly common.

"[There's a] soaring number of people facing malnutrition, and we can really see that the situation is really getting to levels that we've never seen ever before."



*The sin which makes you sad and repentant is more liked by Allah than the good deed which turns you arrogant.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:11    Evening: 19:35    Dawn: 3:28 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 5:07 (tomorrow)

## Using his brush, Algerian artist makes Gaza’s lost faces visible again

Algerian painter and artist Aboulhak Abina draws the faces of Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip since October 2023 to make them visible to the world.

He joined a demonstration in Paris on July 5 calling for an end to the genocide in Gaza. Throughout the protest, he carried two portraits—one depicting Israel’s assault on Gaza and the other of six-year-old Palestinian girl Hind Rajab, who was killed by Israeli forces on Jan. 29, 2024.

Speaking to Anadolu, Abina said he painted these portraits—each taking about 65 hours to complete—so that the children killed in Gaza’s genocide would not be forgotten and so that at least an image of them might remain.

He shared that he has been devoted to the Palestinian cause since the age of 13.

Criticizing how the media portrays Israelis and Palestinians in starkly different terms, Abina said: “While Israelis are shown as people who enjoy meals, go to the cinema and love great civilizations,” Palestinians—whose land has been stolen—are portrayed as “barbarians.”

In response to this narrative, Abina decided to create these works of art.

“I wanted to make these pieces to say Palestine exists, and whether they like it or not, it will continue to exist.”

Abina accused the French government, President Emmanuel Macron and various foreign governments and media outlets of being directly or indirectly complicit in the genocide in Gaza.

“What’s happening is a genocide. And the

worst part is that so many states are collaborating,” he said.

He added that he is working with a collective of artists to organize an exhibition that would include portraits of men and women killed in Gaza.

Abina also painted a portrait of Hind Rajab. “Genocidal murderers killed this child,” he said.

Noting that the moment of Rajab’s death was recorded, he said: “I wanted to represent those moments through art because this little girl stands for all the Palestinian children who have died and whose names and faces are never shown in European media.”

Referring to Europeans, Abina said: “They have unresolved issues over what they did to the Jews during World War II, and Palestinians have absolutely nothing to do with those atrocities.”

He stressed that people of conscience cannot allow the genocide in Gaza to continue and that every available tool—art, cinema, literature—must be used to make the faces of the victims visible.

Abina, who said he wanted to make people reflect with his paintings depicting Israel’s attacks on Gaza, explained that in one of the pieces he drew, he included various figures such as a Gazan doctor, a journalist and a mother carrying her child in her arms.

He also included powerful symbols such as the cartoon character Handala, the “key of return” symbolizing the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland, an olive branch representing peace, and a school notebook symbolizing “the innocence killed in Gaza.”

TEHRAN – The Tehran Pardis Theater Complex will host a group of performers presenting Tazieh, the Iranian passion play, beginning Thursday evening in observance of Muharram.

During the Muharram rituals, millions of Muslims commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (S).

Directed by Morteza Saffarian, the group begin their performances every night at 8 p.m. for 16 nights.

The group is scheduled to perform a diverse repertoire, featuring popular taziehs such as “Imam Ali (AS)Tazieh”, “Shah Cheragh (AS) Tazieh”, “Hazrat Muslim (AS) Tazieh”, and “Hurr ibn Riahi Tazieh” among others.

“Imam Ali (AS)Tazieh” is about the martyrdom of Imam Ali, observed on the 21st day of Ramadan, and marks the tragic death of Ali ibn Abi Talib, revered as Hazrat Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad. An influential figure in Islamic history, Imam Ali was known for his wisdom, courage, and piety.

“Shah Cheragh (AS) Tazieh” is about the martyrdom of Hazrat Ahmad ibn Musa (AS) who, along with his brothers, including Seyyed Alaeddin Hossein (AS), embarks on a journey to visit their brother, Imam Reza (AS), in the Khorasan region.

However, Fars ruler Qotlogh Khan is assigned by Abbasid caliph Mamun the task of stopping them. They all are killed in an intense battle with the ruler’s men.

“Hazrat Muslim (AS) Tazieh” portrays the journey of Muslim ibn Aqil al-Hashimi (AS), the messenger of Imam Hussein (AS), to Kufa a few days before the Ashura uprising that led to the martyrdom of the Imam and



## Tazieh performances to go on stage at Tehran theater

his companions in 680.

“Hurr ibn Riahi Tazieh” is about Hurr ibn Riahi, one of Yazid’s commanders, who joined the troops of Imam Hussein (AS) on the eve of Ashura.

“Ali al-Akbar (AS) Tazieh” and “Abbas ibn Ali (AS) Tazieh” are also among the highlights of the performances.

“Ali al-Akbar (AS) Tazieh” tells the story of Ali al-Akbar, the son of Imam Hussein (AS), who displayed unwavering bravery and selflessness during the Battle of Karbala, ultimately giving his life while fighting alongside his family against the forces of Yazid’s army.

“Abbas ibn Ali (AS) Tazieh” is about Abbas (AS), the brother of Imam Hussein (AS), who was a key figure in the Battle of Ashura, serving as commander and standard-bearer of Imam Hussein (AS)’s caravan. He was renowned for his virtues, including dignity, bravery, generosity, and obedience to the infallible Imam.

## Documentary on Gaza wins Golden Apricot award at Yerevan International Film Festival

TEHRAN – The closing ceremony of the 22nd Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival took place on July 20, and the documentary “Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk” about life in Gaza during the ongoing Israeli military actions won an award.

Competing in the Regional Panorama Competition section, where Iranian director Amir Naderi was the president of the jury, “Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk” directed by Sepideh Farsi won the Golden Apricot, ISNA reported.

The 112-minute France/Palestine film is the filmmaker’s response to the ongoing massacre of Palestinians. Farsi thinks that a miracle happened when she met Fatima Hassouna. She became her eyes in Gaza, where she resisted while documenting the war, and Farsi became a link between her and the world, from her “Gaza prison,” as she named it.

They maintained this line of life for almost a year. The bits of sound and pixels that they exchanged became the film. The killing of Fatima on April 16, due to an Israeli raid on her house, changes its meaning forever.

In the opening ceremony of the festival, July 13, Naderi had been presented with Parajanov’s Thaler Award, one of Golden Apricot’s highest honors, for outstanding artistic contribution to world cinema

Parajanov’s Thaler is named after the artist Sergei Parajanov. In 1976 when Parajanov, Soviet film director and screenwriter, was imprisoned, he carved figures with his fingernails on the aluminum lids of milk bottles and called them “Thalers”.

Today they are in Yerevan, in the museum of S. Parajanov. The award is a silver replica of one of these unique coins, and it is presented annually at the Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival.

A pioneer of post-revolutionary Iranian cinema, Naderi, 78, is a leading figure of the so-called “Second Wave” alongside Abbas Kiarostami and Majid Majidi.

As a filmmaker, he drew inspiration from Henri Cartier-Bresson’s urban experience and photography of everyday life, as well as the aesthetics of Italian neorealist cinema—including location shooting, use of non-professional actors, freer narrative structures, and a focus on the hardships of the poor and working class.

Naderi gave fundamental impetus to the birth of Iranian cinema during the 1970s and 80s, with several masterpieces destined to leave their mark on the history of cinema.

Born in the southern city of Abadan, Naderi made his directorial debut with “Goodbye

Friend” in 1971 and soon became one of the best-known figures in the film industry.

He entered the international spotlight with “Tangsir” (1974). “The Runner” (1985) and “Water, Wind, Soil” (1989) both won the Golden Montgolfiere at the Three Continents Festival in Nantes. “The Runner” is considered by many critics to be one of the most influential films of the past quarter century.

The prominent director moved to the U.S. in the mid-80s and made “Sound Barrier,” which won the Roberto Rossellini Critics’ Prize at the Rome Film Festival in 2005, and “Vegas: Based on a True Story,” which premiered in competition at Venice in 2008.

He was named a Rockefeller Film and Video Fellow in 1997 and has served as an instructor at Columbia University, the University of Las Vegas, and New York’s School of Visual Arts. His US films have premiered at the Film Society of Lincoln Center/ MoMA’s New Directors/New Films series, the Venice, Cannes, Tribeca, and Sundance FF.

His Japan-set “The Cut,” a homage to yakuza (crime syndicates) movies, opened the Venice Horizons section in 2011. Naderi was also in Venice in 2014 with “Mise En Scene: A Conversation with Arthur Penn,” in the classics section.

## IAF to show Japanese animation “The Secret World of Arrietty”

TEHRAN – The 2010 Japanese animated fantasy film “The Secret World of Arrietty,” also simply known as “Arrietty,” directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi, will be screened at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran on Thursday.

The 94-minute animation will be shown at the Nasser Hall of the IAF at 6 p.m. with Persian subtitles, ILNA reported.

Written by Hayao Miyazaki and Keiko Niwa, and animated by Studio Ghibli, “Arrietty” was Yonebayashi’s feature film debut as a director.

It is based on the 1952 novel “The Borrowers” by Mary Norton, an English author of children’s books, about a family of tiny peo-

ple who live secretly in the walls and floors of a typical household, borrowing items from humans to survive.

The animation tells the story of a young Borrower (Arrietty) be-friending a human boy (Shawn) while trying to avoid being detected by the other humans.

Arrietty, a tiny teenager, lives with her parents in the recesses of a suburban home, unbeknownst to the homeowner and housekeeper. Like others of her kind, Arrietty remains hidden from her human hosts, but occasionally ventures forth from beneath the floorboards to borrow sugar cubes and other supplies. A secret friendship forms when 12-year-old Shawn meets Arrietty, but their relationship could

spell danger for Arrietty’s family.

It was released in Japan on July 17, 2010, by Toho, and received positive reviews from critics, who praised its animation and music. It became the highest-grossing Japanese film at the Japanese box office for the year 2010, and grossed over \$145 million worldwide.

The animated film also won the Animation of the Year award at the 34th Japan Academy Prize award ceremony.

Studio Ghibli is a Japanese animation studio based in Tokyo. It was founded in 1985 by directors Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata and producer Toshio Suzuki. It has a strong presence in the animation industry and has expand-

ed its portfolio to include various media such as short subjects, television commercials and two television films.

The studio’s work is often highly acclaimed by both critics and audiences and recognized with numerous awards. Their mascot and most recognizable character is Totoro from the 1988 film “My Neighbor Totoro,” a giant spirit inspired by raccoon dogs (tanuki) and cats (neko). Among the studio’s highest-grossing films are “Princess Mononoke” (1997), “Spirited Away” (2001), “Howl’s Moving Castle” (2004), “Ponyo” (2008), and “The Boy and the Heron” (2023).

The Iranian Artists Forum is located at Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

### Cartoon of Day



Drums of Starvation

**Cartoonist:** Osama Hajjaj from Jordan